

NOTIFICATIONS.

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THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,

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A. S. WATSON & Co., Ltd.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,

HONGKONG, 11th July 1888.

The Hongkong Telegraph

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 1888

In last night's *China Mail* we find the following:

It would appear that the excitable residents of Manila have not been pacified by the message they received from the Spanish Consul here that the health of the port was excellent, for we learn that the *Zafiro* on her arrival at Manila on Sunday was put into quarantine for ten days. The owners may thank the shrieking alarmists here for the loss they sustain.

The final sentence in the foregoing paragraph is distinctly intended to refer to this journal, and if permitted to pass unnoticed might possibly cause us financial injury as the steamers of the China and Manila Steamship Company, Limited, advertised in our columns. It is hardly too much to say that the very broad assertion as to the loss caused the owners of the *Zafiro* by the quarantining of that vessel, being due to the *Hongkong Telegraph*—and perhaps in a lesser degree to the *Daily Press*—described as "shrieking alarmists," was purposely made with the intention of, if possible, inducing Messrs. RUSSELL & Co. to withdraw their advertisements and support from these papers. Such shameless meanness would be worthy of the *China Mail*.

However, the injurious statement having been made, it was our bounden duty in self-defence as well as for the information and in the interests of the Hongkong community, to inquire into and publicly expose the rascally mendacity of the *China Mail*. And we accordingly placed ourselves in communication with Captain MORRIS, Consul for Spain at this port, who, according to the lying and infamous evening "rag," had notified the Manila Government that the health of this port was excellent. Captain MORRIS promptly called at the office of this paper and in answer to our inquiries, courteously stated that "if the *Zafiro* had been placed in quarantine at Manila, it was owing to a telegram he had despatched to his Government informing the Captain-General, on the authority of the Hongkong Government Gazette, that this colony was infected with cholera nostras." The "shrieking alarmist" therefore to whom the owners of the *Zafiro* can justly attribute any loss sustained by the quarantining of their steamer, is no less a person than Captain MORRIS, the Spanish Consul, who in the performance of his duty specially telegraphed to the Manila Government that it had been officially announced in the *Gazette* that during the week ended June 30th, five deaths had occurred in this colony from cholera nostras—in addition to five from cholera diarrhoea and 53 from "vomiting and purging."

We will not condescend to abuse the wretched apology for a man who wrote the cowardly, contemptible, and mendacious paragraph in the *China Mail*—he is beneath abuse; so we leave him to the tender mercies of his conscience, if he possesses such a thing; and to the scorn of the Hongkong public.

We quite agree in the main with the remarks in this morning's *Daily Press*, questioning alike the legality and justice of a sentence of two months imprisonment with hard labour, passed by Mr. SERCOMBE SMITH at the Police Court yesterday on one of two chair coolies, who were charged with the larceny of \$9, the property of Mr. G. H. POTTS, of Messrs. RUSSELL & Co. Mr. POTTS stated that he gave his house porter a \$10 note to pay one dollar he owed two chair coolies for services rendered, and that, an hour afterwards, on asking the house porter for his change, that worthy said he had given the coolies the note, thinking it was of the value of one dollar. Both the chair coolies protested that they had only received the amount due to them, and yet in the face of this and on the mere evidence of an outside coolie, who was discovered by the house porter for a "style" that can only be fairly described as miraculous, the Magistrate—God alone knows why—discharged one coolie and sent the other to gaol for two

months. In law, even had the allegations of Mr. G. H. POTTS, and the house porter's coolie been fully substantiated—which they certainly were not—the charge of larceny could not be sustained; on the bare evidence the defendants were entitled to an acquittal. We exceedingly regret to have again to direct the attention of His Excellency the Governor to this flagrant miscarriage of justice, but—*fiat justitia, ruat cælum*.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The Portuguese transport *India* went into Dock today.

This afternoon, target firing was practiced from Beller's Bay Battery, the target being in the vicinity of Chung Hue Island.

We would remind our readers of the grand performance to be given to-night by Mr. Woodyear's Circus at Bowrington, as per advertisement in another column.

Some further correspondence between the Hongkong Government and the Hon. C. P. Chater with reference to the Praya Reclamation Scheme will be found in another column.

An Emergency meeting of Zealand Lodge, No. 52, will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zealand Street, this evening, at 8.30 for 9 o'clock precisely. All their brethren are cordially invited.

On the military reserve contingent lately called to arms in Italy, and consisting of 191,893 men, 53 per cent. could read and write; 244 per cent. could read, and 44 per cent. were destitute of all learning.

In referring to some remarks we made on the subject of the stoppage of Chinese immigration to Australia, the *Rangoon Times* says we might be some good to Burma by pointing out the sad condition it offers to the men now shut out of the Australian colonies. Will our Chinese friends who are desirous of seeking fortune in a foreign land, kindly note?

SPANISH papers relate at great length the visit lately paid by the Queen Regent and the Infant King Alfonso XIII to Barcelona, at the commencement of the Exhibition. After inaugurating the show, and attending several naval manoeuvres of the national and foreign men-of-war assembled in Barcelona harbour, their Majesties returned to Madrid.

The *N. C. Daily News* understands that Mr. Wainwright's application for leave to appeal to Her Majesty in Council from the recent Order in Mrs. Benjamin's proceedings against him was heard by H.B.M.'s Acting Chief Justice in Chambers yesterday (July 5th) morning, and that leave was granted upon the terms of Mr. Wainwright, giving the usual security on or before and pro.

We are informed by the Agents of the Canadian Pacific Steamship Line that the steamship *Puritan* which left Yokohama on the 24th June arrived at Vancouver on the 6th inst. after a splendid run of 12 days, (steaming nearly 15 knots an hour, during the whole passage) which is the shortest on record across the Pacific. The same Company's steamer *Zambesi* left Vancouver on the 1st inst., and the *Batavia* on the 3rd, both for Yokohama and this port. The steamship *Port Adelaide* arrived at Vancouver on the 30th ult.

A YOUNG Chinese carpenter, aged 23, was to-day charged before Mr. Wodehouse with attempting to commit suicide. P. C. Sun Mann, said this morning at 1.30 a.m. while walking along the Praya Central he saw the defendant making a rope fast to some scaffolding near a house, and then proceeded to tie the other end of the rope round his neck. Defendant's story was that he came to Hongkong two days ago to look for his father who was a bricklayer; he had failed to find him, had no friends, no money, and nowhere to go to; he had tried to drown himself the other day, but being a good swimmer had not succeeded. The case was remanded to Friday next, so as to get a medical report of the young fellow's mental condition.

YESTERDAY at noon five Chinese coolies went to their hut in the Magazine Gap to get their dinner. They had nearly finished, and in a few minutes more would have been able to say with the epicure "Fate cannot harm me—I have dined to-day." Unfortunately for them, however, just then the blasts were being fired at a quarry where they were employed, five or six hundred feet above, and several stones, weighing eight or ten pounds each, were projected into their midst. One man, named Tun Sue, had his head completely smashed whilst raising his chopsticks to his mouth, and another's leg and arm were broken. The rest were untouched. The injured man was taken to the Hospital.

This morning the presentation to Capt. Lee, of the steamship *Abyssinia*, was made on board that vessel. A Chinese deputation, on behalf of the native passengers from San Francisco last trip, handed Capt. Lee a handsome pennant made of green silk. On it were the words "Presented by the passengers." In English, and sentences in Cantonese and Mandarin characters to the effect that Capt. Lee looked after his passengers as though they were his own body. Accompanying the flag was a gold pendant, with the following inscription:—"Presented to Capt. G. A. Lee, steamship *Abyssinia*, by the Chinese passengers from San Francisco to Hongkong, as a token of esteem and respect, June, 1888." The leader of the deputation, in making the presentation, said that the recipient had been as kind to his living passengers as he had been thoughtful with regard to the deceased ones.—Capt. Lee returned thanks in a few felicitous words.—Mr. Dodwell also testified to the popularity of the gentleman they had met to honour. The flag was then hoisted at the fore amid much conviviality and cracker-firing, and was still flying when the fine vessel steamed out, shortly afterwards.

THE ex-abroad Fing A-won charged with obtaining \$1,500 by false pretences from a Chinese Bank on the 2nd inst. again came before Mr. Sercombe-Smith this afternoon and was committed for trial.

DURING one of the squalls yesterday afternoon a sampan that was being pulled across to Yau-mai for safety capsized when near the P. & O. buoy. The accident was observed from the shore, and the Harbour Office and Police launches went out to assist. All the occupants clung to the keel, and were safely taken off, the boat being righted and towed in.

We regret to hear that private telegraphic advices have been received from Calcutta to the effect that the heat there lately has been overpowering. The thermometer has registered about 108 deg., and the result has been numerous deaths amongst all classes of the community. Horses are reported to have been dropping down dead in the streets, and business generally has been suspended.

THE Manila *Diario* says that every steamer that arrives at that port takes hundreds of immigrants from the Continent of China, and that these periodical arrivals are scarcely mentioned in the local papers, to the great detriment of statistics and the local census. The *Diario* then calls upon the Government to exercise a more efficient supervision on the wave of immigration which is constantly increasing in the Philippines.

TAM ON, the baker of the steamer *Arabic*, was to-day summoned before Mr. Wodehouse by Mr. W. Thomas, manager of the Peak Hotel, for the offence of running away from his work, at the Hotel, on the 4th inst. Complainant said the hotel was employed up to that date in his house as cook and baker when suddenly at noon, he disappeared without saying "good bye," asking leave, or giving notice. The second and third cooks also vanished at the same time, also without giving notice, and the result was that he had been put to a great deal of trouble and annoyance. Complainant knew of no reason why the men should have cleared out. On the 10th inst. he was informed that the defendant had shipped on board the Californian bound steamer *Arabic* as baker, where he was this morning found by the man who served the summons. His Worship fined the defendant \$5 or in default six weeks imprisonment.

In the British Civil Summary Court in Shanghai an interesting case has been tried in which John W. S. Neeson, a licensed pilot, was the plaintiff, and Captain E. Norman, of the "Glen" line steamer *Glenfruin*, the defendant. The claim made by his pilot was "for not allowing pilotage." On the 2nd and 7th July plaintiff was on board his pilot boat *Bonita* outside the Tungsha lightship when the seaman on duty reported a steamer close by. A flash light was at once shown by the plaintiff and replied to by a bright light from the steamer. This signal was understood to mean "come on board." Before leaving the signal was repeated in consequence of which he at once put off in his boat. On getting near the steamer he was asked who he was; on replying the Captain called out "where is Pike?" He said he did not know, and the vessel at once proceeded on to Shanghai—in charge of Mr. Campbell, a pilot who was returning to Shanghai in the steamer as a passenger. Captain Norman denied replying to any light signals; there were plenty of lights about the deck but the only signal made, to his knowledge was a private one, by means of a red light. On the boat coming alongside he refused to take the pilot who was in her; and told him he wanted Brand, who was not forthcoming he went on to the Tung-sha lightship and then gave orders to have Campbell called. The plaintiff was non-suited.

MR. P. W. WILLARD'S Musical Comedy and Opera Company will make their first appearance before a Hongkong audience at the Theatre Royal, on Monday next in Vincent Wallace's immortal English opera "Maritana." The Company are handicapping themselves up to a pretty high standard in thus tackling for their debut a classical opera presenting so many technical difficulties as "Maritana," especially as their great forte lies in musical comedy and opera bouffe; however, it is at least a sign that they are not afraid of subjecting their musical abilities to public criticism. It may interest our readers to have a few particulars as to the personnel of this talented combination of high class artists. *Place aux dames!* Miss Maud Hare is a soprano of experience, whose connection with Mr. Sims Reeves' concerts speaks volumes as to her ability. The contralto of the Company, Miss Eva Leamington, was a medalist of the Milan Conservatoire and has gained a reputation in Italian Opera. Miss Morrison, mezzo soprano, is well known in connection with the London "Dorothy" Company; Miss Vera Patey is a good second soprano, and as a graceful *dansuse* rivals Kate Vaughan; Miss Nellie Arline shines as a musical and Terpsichorean artist, Madame Kate Whiteford is an excellent actress of ability, and Miss Gracie Whiteford is a charming soubrette, vocalist and *dansuse*. It will be acknowledged that this is by far the most powerful combination of ladies we have ever seen on the Hongkong stage. Now for the gentlemen. Mr. Charles Fisher's credentials—leading tenor with the Carl Rosa, Turner, and other leading opera companies—are good enough for anything. Mr. H. M. Imano has been basso with D'Oyly Carte and several American troupes; Mr. Sutcliff has gained considerable fame as leading baritone in opera bouffe; Mr. Whiffen Cripps is a second tenor, who has "faced the music" at St. James's Hall, London; and in oratorio Mr. H. Hassan is described as an animal impersonator of Drury Lane and other theatres which we take to be a new line of operatic business.—Mr. J. A. Robertson is a conductor of well known ability; and Mr. John F. Sheridan, of "Fun on the Bistol" celebrity, is a comedian already sufficiently well known in this colony. This first class "show" has been organized and will be directed by Mr. Pemberton W. Willard, who will doubtless occasionally "get his weary hour" during the season. We cordially wish the Company every success.

THE Superintendent of the P. & O. S. N. Co. courteously informs us that the Company's regular fortnightly steamer *Decca*, from Bombay, left Singapore for this port at 7 a.m. to-day.

THIS morning Mr. Wodehouse fined a contractor \$10 for negligently blasting stones out of the foundation of an old house at West Point to the peril of people passing along the highway. Thomas Lam, a wharfinger, said that soon after noon on the 9th inst. a shower of stones came down on the road, and within 200 feet of his door, any one of which would have killed a man if it had struck him. One stone which witness picked up near by weighed ten pounds. Defendant said witness did not know the law.

A VERY typical expression of the value in which a word of honour or a "promise true" is held among the descendants of Vasco da Gama who inhabit the neighbouring colony of Macao may be found in one of the electoral circulars lately published, where a dialogue is instituted between two electors concerning the merits of the candidates who have put forward their claims for the coming elections. An elector asks the other that a certain priest had given him a word of honour to vote for Senhor Horta, and could not consequently retract, upon which Francisco replies: "Leave nonsense alone. If Father Simco and Horta had entered into a bilateral contract, by which either party had agreed to do certain specified things, then I should think Father Simco could not retract without the consent of the other contracting party. But as no such bilateral agreement existed, as there was only a promise to do Horta a favor, the elector is by no means irrevocably bound to fulfill his promise. No, sir; there is no principle of morality that demands such a sacrifice." After a few more remarks on a similar strain, the worthy author of the circular, speaking through his interlocutor, concludes: "There is nothing more shameful than a want of moral courage." This is, in our opinion, a trait that speaks volumes for the standard of public morality that exists in Macao. We have always thought Machiavellism had obtained a secure foothold in that degraded colony, especially since the place was visited by the plague of Jesuitism in 1851. The present disciples of the Jesuits are, simply emulating their masters in the black art of tergiversation, and fraud. We need not take the trouble to trace the author of this Machiavellian circular, for the writer's peculiar style, his flowy mode of arguing the question, his imperturbable sang froid, or in other words, the frank rascality with which he pulls down the standard of morality from its high pedestal, in trail it in the gutter of his own convenience, are unmistakable signs that he is the same old Protean individual whose influence has always been felt in electorship as well as other campaigns of the Holy City, and whose tactics, like those of so many other distinguished citizens of that "Garden of the East" are only too faithfully portrayed in the specimen we have translated above.

SAYS the *Shin Pao*—Letters from Japan give the following particulars of the recent outbreak in Corea. The Coreans having lost many children by kidnapping lately, rumours arose that the Europeans and Japanese were inveigling them away, cooking and eating them. A woman who lived near a Japanese house having lost two children, went about searching for them and calling them by name in a lamentable voice, so that all who heard her were moved, and this was the immediate cause of the disturbances. The Government knowing that people's minds were in a ferment, had proclamations posted up to inform the people that kidnappers were being hard at work searching for the children, and that any people who lost children should come and report the circumstances. On 12th and 13th June a Japanese resident saw a Seoul man tightly bound with straw ropes lying by the side of the street, with lying hands, three or four stout cudgels for the convenience of passers-by who might feel inclined to stop and give him a few blows, and every native who saw him reviled him as "conspiring with foreigners to do this great wickedness." On 15th June a man also lay bound in the principal street of Seoul, with sticks lying near him for this torture of the gauntlet; his whole body was one mass of wounds and bruises, and the next morning he lay dead with nails five inches long driven through the most tender parts of his person and the boys who passed were throwing filth over the body, a horrible sight. The Japanese asking who he had been, was told a man who had previously been convicted of kidnapping. On 18th June the Japanese Minister went to the Korean Foreign Office to make enquiry, and on that day Korean soldiers in parties of seven, armed with spears and swords, searched the Japanese merchants' houses, and the Korean sugar-shops, and sugar being sometimes used by kidnappers as a means of luring children away, smashed their sugar pots and took away some of the men. On 18th June some 30 Seoul men beset the house of an American Missionary howling and yelling for his blood but the Missionary luckily escaped with his wife. Complaint being made to the U.S. Minister, on 19th June, H.E. called a meeting of the foreign Ministers at his Legation, at which the Chinese Minister owing to illness was not present. Application was made to the foreign men-of-war for help, and that night the Russians sent 8 men, and the following morning 16 more, who arrived, armed to the teeth, in small boats at Seoul. The Americans sent 30 marines, and next the French sent a force of 30. On 19th and 20th June, British and German marines and sailors also arrived to guard their chapels, and on 20th the Japanese Consul, the commanders of two Japanese men-of-war and about ten armed men arrived in the Capital. The Korean Government now became seriously alarmed, and being candidly informed by one of the Ministers that if it could not keep order and restrain the agitation, the foreign Governments would have to take measures to do so by keeping an armed force permanently in Corea, set a strong force of soldiers to do so themselves, and issued reassuring proclamations to the people. The excitement has now, as we learn from the same Japanese letter, greatly calmed down.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by correspondents in this column.)

THE PRAYA RECLAMATION.

SIR—I shall be glad if you will kindly publish the subjoined correspondence re the Praya Reclamation, for the information of the marine lot-holders and the community at large.

Yours faithfully,

C. P. CHATER.

Hongkong, 4th July, 1888.

SIR—I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter, No. 836, of the 23rd June, last, in which, referring to previous correspondence on the subject, you informed me by direction of His Excellency the Governor, that the preliminary surveys of the fore-shore and seabed, undertaken by desire of the marine lot-

holders and paid for by them in connection with the Praya Reclamation scheme, were completed, that plans and estimates for the work were forwarded therewith, and in which you further requested me to ascertain as speedily as possible the final reply of the marine lot-holders interested to the Government proposals.

I have now the honor to inform you, for the information of His Excellency, that at a meeting of the marine lot-holders held at the City Hall on Tuesday the 3rd inst., the plans and estimates were laid before them, and it was unanimously resolved to accept the proposals of the Government embodied in your letter of the 11th August and 18th November, 1887, and in that of the 23rd June, 1888, now under reply, and to authorize the Government to proceed at once with the work, the lot-holders undertaking to find the necessary funds under the terms of the agreement.

I hand you for the information of His Excellency a full report of the meeting, and of the resolutions passed thereat.

This happy termination of the negotiations so long pending relieves me from all necessity of replying in more detail to the ninth and tenth paragraphs of your letter, in which His Excellency gives expression to views as to the position of the Government and as to the rights of marine lot-holders, and I have only, in conclusion, to offer my congratulations to His Excellency and to the Government on the completion of this agreement, which will, as I firmly believe, benefit the Government and the public as much as it will benefit the marine lot-holders. It will add largely to the available building area in the city, thus relieving the threatened congestion of the population and improving the sanitary condition. It will afford immensely increased facilities to the trade and commerce of the colony, by increasing the depth of water along so large an extent of the wharfage frontage, by the greater width of the new streets and Praya, and by the construction, now for the first time rendered possible, of the low level tramway. It will considerably augment the revenue derived from Crown rents and from the taxation on 1,500 new houses. It will give to the Crown for sale, or for public purposes, 5 acres of land, worth, after all expenses of reclamation are paid, over two millions of dollars. All this will be done at the expense of the marine lot-holders without responsibility or expense on the part of the Government as a Government, and without raising any of the many troublesome questions about relative rights, or still more troublesome claims to compensation, that under other circumstances must surely arise.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant,

C. P. CHATER.

To the Hon. Frederick Stewart, LL.D., Colonial Secretary.

No. 922. COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE

7th July, 1888.

SIR—I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated 4th July, conveying information of the result of the recent meeting of marine lot-holders.

While the unanimity of the lot-holders is so far satisfactory that it would render comparatively easy the carrying out of the proposed scheme of Reclamation by means of private funds, His Excellency desires me to point out that this unanimity must not be regarded as settling the question, either as to the permission of the contemplated Reclamation or, if it be permitted, as to the mode of carrying it out.

As mentioned in my letter of the 23rd ultimo, the final decision on these two points rests with Her Majesty's Government. The view taken on the first will probably depend on the advice of the marine engineers who may be consulted on the subject; and the judgment on the second will, no doubt, be largely influenced by legal opinions obtained with respect to the rights of the marine lot-holders.

His Excellency deems it right to repeat thus emphatically his reference to the necessity of sanction by Her Majesty's Government, not merely because some passages in your letter seem to imply inadequate appreciation of this requisite condition, but in order to preclude losses from speculative land purchases made in the belief that that is certain which is by no means certain.

I am to add that whatever may be the ultimate decision, the part which you have taken in initiating the scheme, and the heat of the preliminary surveys, having been at the expense of the lot-holders, will not, of course, be omitted from consideration.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant,

FREDERICK STEWART,

Colonial Secretary.

The Hon. C. P. Chater.

Hongkong, 9th July, 1888.

SIR—Referring to my letter of the 4th inst., in which I informed His Excellency the Governor of the result of the meeting of the marine lot-holders held at the City Hall, I have now to acknowledge the receipt of your reply of the 7th inst., in which, by desire of His Excellency, you point out, that although the unanimity of the marine lot-holders at that meeting is satisfactory as holding out a prospect of the completion of the Praya Reclamation Scheme by means of private funds, yet that unanimity must not be regarded as settling the question, either one way or the other; that permission had yet to be obtained from the Home Government for the work to be undertaken at all, and thus it will be for the Home Government to decide if it gives permission for the work, in what manner, and by whom it shall be carried out.

You further point out that the giving of the permission will probably depend upon advice to be obtained in England from marine engineers, and that legal opinions as to relative rights of the Crown and the marine lot-holders will have much influence on the determination of the mode in which the work, if permitted, will be carried out.

Will you do me the honor of informing His Excellency that I thoroughly understand that, although the Local Government and the marine lot-holders here have come to an agreement on the Praya Reclamation Scheme, having agreed as to the work being done, and as to the mode in which it is to be done, that agreement depends entirely for its validity on the consent and approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and lest any doubt should remain in the minds of the public on the point, I propose, with His Excellency's consent, to have this correspondence inserted in the public newspapers. I cannot, however, imagine that there will be any difficulty in obtaining the cordial assent of the Secretary of State to the agreement come to between His Excellency's Government and the marine lot-holders; I see no engineering difficulties, in fact, no question to be submitted to marine engineers at all. The work proposed to be done is neither new to the Colony nor difficult. The Reclamation at West Point, opposite the Slaughter House and Marine Lots Nos. 126, 177 and 182, was successfully carried out some two years ago in much deeper water than any portion of the new Praya Wall extends to, and where there were much stronger currents. The Government's Reclamation on the Praya West, and the Government Reclamation for the Western Market in front of the Salter's Home, are being carried out to the line of the proposed new sea-wall and in water deeper, with one exception, than along any section of the proposed works. Our engineering knowledge

and experience in the Colony is fully equal to pronouncing a judgment on the work proposed.

On the legal question not being a lawyer, I cannot express myself so confidently, but His Excellency will find on investigation that all previous reclamations have been carried out under agreements with the marine lot-holders and none of them on terms so advantageous to the Crown as this, and I beg to hand you, for His Excellency's consideration, Mr. Francis' opinion on the subject. You will see that while agreeing to the fullest extent the rights claimed by His Excellency for the Crown in the fore-shore and in reclaiming land, he questions the right of the Crown to make reclamations without the consent of the marine lot-holders, to whom when it granted a lease of a marine lot, granted certain rights of access to the sea which it cannot, without their consent, take away.

Thanking His Excellency in the name of the marine lot-holders for the great interest he takes in the work, and for the careful attention he has given to all suggestions and representations, I have only to beg of him to give his full support with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and I feel assured that, if he does so, all difficulties will vanish.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant,

C. P. CHATER.

The Hon. F. Stewart, LL.D., Colonial Secretary.

COMING DOWN THE YANGTSE.

They were praying for said day after day at Ichang. Evening after evening crackers went off from the top of the Pyramid opposite, gongs were sounded, and drums. The ponds from which the rice fields are irrigated were well high dry, even the big Lotus leaves flapping, as if parched for water. And the very rice fields themselves were in some cases dry. Drought threatened the land. At last on the 22nd grateful showers came down, and on the 23rd it rained nearly all day. But that was not enough to revive land so thoroughly scorched. And Sunday was hot as ever again, a glorious day, brilliant sun-shine with a fresh cool breeze. Never had the hills tops looked clearer or more beautiful. Every crag stood out. Every shadow of every frag had its own well-defined shadow.

The Yangtze ran red in the sunshine, the glittering wavelets flashing from violet to brown. The water-mark was extraordinarily low for the time of year, the current not so fast as usual. But it hurried us more the less faster than we rushed past Chienkiang of the many pagoda, Turgas with its picturesque water gate, Shih Shou the most interesting looking place in the whole first thousand miles of the so-called Yangtze, with its old temple-crowned hills and mouldering yamens; past the real Yangtze flowing out of the Tungting Lake, on till those intolerable hotel runners boarded us at Hankow; crinching up alongside in their big boats, never minding what damage they may do to paint, as they sail up quite close, let each man spring on board like a wild cat, and then sheer off again.

At Hankow people languidly fanning themselves declared they had not had it hot at all yet, nothing worth speaking of. But they wanted rain so. It felt very breathless, and just in inverse proportion to one's own feeling of intensity was the liveliness of the mosquitoes. Raindrops, however, were falling as we steamed away on the night of the 27th, and with us it rained all night, so we hoped it had at Hankow. At Kiukiang it was pouring next day. But there they have for some time past had plenty of rain. The China shops of Kiukiang were hardly as rich as one might expect, seeing how near they are to the great works of King T'ien Chên. A silver shop was more interesting. It was a real pleasure to see Chinamen hammering away at silver ornaments exactly after the method advocated in Mr. Leland's (Hans Breimann's) excellent volume in the Art at Home series, and just as so many amateurs are now making admirable brasswork at home—laying a thin sheet of metal on pith, and working at the background with a hammer, and sharpened nail or punch, thus making the pattern, previously traced out, start into high relief. The more roughly this work is done, the handsomer is its effect, so that it seems better suited for brass sconces for candles, or door-pieces, than for silver hair-ornaments. But it was pleasant to find these Chinamen in their little shops provided with a plentiful supply of sharpened nails together with the familiar pincettes.

At Wuhu there had been no rain, and the people were said to be still praying for it. They are very proud of their new Wuhu. And remembering how last year at Wuhu, nearly turned back, a deep water was cut, their roads seemed something to rejoice about, neatly paved and tidily walked. Everything is new at Wuhu, where they have hardly yet got accustomed to the Commissioner's house, beautifully situated towards the top of the hill, and commanding an ever varying view of a great extent of country. And where they have now got a new Consulate, also well situated on an eminence and very amply verandahed; also still newer Customs, into which the state are just about to move, with the new Customs, and a pleasantly substantial inn. Besides all the novelties, these results, who hold all the best land there are in course of building the largest edifice of all, a place of refreshment for all of their Order up the river, so that they may not have to come to Shanghai from time to time.

Before going on shore in the early morning at Wuhu the steamer seemed suddenly overrun with Chinese ladies. Early coffee had to be taken, under the admiring gaze of some dozen or more elegantly dressed Chinese damsels, who were very good indeed, and very good indeed, on two of her fingers, but on her taking them off it turned out the nails underneath were no longer than my own. So I was not surprised where the Steward informed me the party were "A Salt Commissioner from Szechuen with his Number Two's" which last words he pronounced in a tone of ineffable contempt. Any way there were a great many of them, and a man growing additional hair for his tail, which consequently stood out round his head like a shock, strutted about with them, and sometimes marching the giggling coterie into the saloon, and then again marching them out, as suited his idea for the moment.

After Chienkiang, in place of Chinese women, the saloon presented a picture of pigtailed Frenchmen—Jesuit Fathers in white Chinese clothes. As Jesuits are not allowed to go up-country till after a long preliminary training and do not become full Jesuit Fathers till often at the least eight or not uncommonly fifteen years of preparation, if they are not far more skilled missionaries than those of the various denominations of Protestants it would seem to show that in missionary work, unlike war, training and discipline avail nothing. They reckon some 100,000 converts in Kiangnan. In some instances they have whole villages of Christians, but although Christian, they say, it must be remembered these villages are Chinese still. At Chienkiang there was still the same Phenologist, feeling men's bumps, and telling their characters and fortunes, surrounded as always by a group of listeners. Can he possibly pay occasionally, and occasionally looking on to allow himself to be operated upon? Or is the transaction really genuine, and is that the expression a man to whom his future is being revealed, naturally wears? A little further up along the Bund was a Fortune Teller, seated

